

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 9, line 2 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in the drawings for purpose of illustration, the present invention provides generally for an improved drywall bead 10 that is comprised of an elongate core 20 having a cover 40 bonded to the outside surface thereof to extend beyond the longitudinal side edges of the core to provide flexible flaps 50 ~~in which longitudinal grooves 56 and ridges 58 are formed~~ having respective outwardly-facing surfaces 52 and inwardly-facing surfaces 54. As shown in the preferred embodiment depicted in Figs. 1-3, the outwardly-facing surfaces 52 of the flaps are formed with a plurality of alternating longitudinal grooves 56 and projecting ridges 58, and the inwardly-facing surfaces 54 are formed with grooves 57 and projecting ridges 59. Some embodiments include a longitudinal pattern of compound communicating perforations 60. While the present invention is described and depicted in detail as a drywall bead having a core with a curved cross-section and mounted on the typical vertical drywall corner joint, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the invention can be used in conjunction with cores of most any cross-section on virtually any drywall joint.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 9, line 11 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, in one embodiment elongate core 20 is formed having a generally curved transverse cross-section to form what is known as a bull nose shape

defining a convex outer surface 22 and a concave inner surface 24. The elongate flanges 26 project laterally beyond the longitudinal edges of the core. In the embodiment of the strip device shown, transitions are formed at the opposite sides of the bull nose curve to define slight bends serving to direct the respective flanges outwardly away from each other at an angle of about ninety degrees. The core may be made of a number of rigid or semi-rigid materials such as galvanized steel, aluminum, and a variety of plastics, including vinyl, nylon, and PVC. In a preferred embodiment as shown in Fig. 3, I have found that flaps formed with a plurality of parallel ~~groove~~ grooves, 56 and 57, and ~~ridges~~ projecting ridges, 58 and 59, formed on the opposite sides thereof perform satisfactorily. A representative embodiment is formed with the grooves spaced laterally apart a distance of about 1/8th of an inch and the ~~ribs~~ ridges formed to bow outwardly in transverse cross section as described below. Thus, once embedded, such ~~ribs~~ ridges present respective barriers against lateral shifting of the respective flanges relative to the joint compound embedded in the respective grooves. Depending on the material selected and the core cross-section desired, the core may be formed through a variety of processes known in the art, including casting, molding, extruding, or roller-forming.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 11, line 16 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to the embodiment depicted in FIG. 3, the elongate, flexible flaps 50 are configured along their length with parallel ~~grooves 56 and ridges 58~~ grooves and ridges. In such a preferred embodiment, the outwardly-facing surfaces 52 of the flaps 50

are formed with grooves 56 and ridges 58, and the inwardly-facing surfaces are similarly formed with grooves 57 and ridges 59. The ~~ridges 58~~ projecting ridges, 58 and 59, are interposed lengthwise between the ~~grooves 56~~ grooves, 56 and 57, and are generally parallel to them. ~~In one embodiment~~ In the embodiment depicted in Fig. 3, three grooves 56 and four ridges 58 are formed ~~in each flap~~ in the outwardly-facing surfaces 52 of the flaps 50 and four grooves 57 and three ridges 59 are formed in the inwardly-facing surfaces 54. As noted, such lengthwise grooves and ridges cooperate to serve the purpose of reinforcing ribs and to provide linear stiffness for the flaps, thereby serving to reinforce against flexing out of the longitudinal plane to minimize longitudinal fluting or waviness in such flaps along their respective lengths while still allowing each flap to bend or flex relatively freely about an axis parallel to the respective longitudinal edges 30 of the core 20. It will be appreciated that this configuration maximizes the workability of the drywall joint assembly strip device 10 of the present invention, as the flaps are held straight in the longitudinal direction but are free to flex about vertical axes to lay down flat over the marginal edges of the joining drywall panels.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 14, line 12 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that several beneficial and novel features of the drywall joint assembly strip device 10 of the present invention become evident in the installation process. First, as the strip device is positioned over the corner joint, the lengthwise ~~grooves 56 and ridges 58~~ grooves, 56 and 57, and ridges, 58 and 59,

formed in the flaps 50 serve to provide linear stiffness so that the flaps minimize any waviness or fluting along their respective lengths. This allows the worker to easily vertically align the strip device over the drywall corner joint with such flaps relatively flat on the drywall surface. Moreover, because the grooves and ridges are configured lengthwise and generally parallel to the longitudinal edges 30 of the core 20, the flaps are still free to bend and flex and curve relative to their respective vertical planes. In this way, the grooves and ridges cooperate to provide both the flexibility relative to the edges of the core and the linear stiffness needed to allow a worker to position the strip device on the drywall corner with such flaps flat against the drywall surface while he or she applies the joint compound over the surfaces of such flaps to anchor them to the drywall panels themselves.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 15, line 7 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

Second, on the ~~respective one sides~~ outwardly-facing surfaces 52 of the flaps, the joint compound will be worked into the grooves 56 between the ridges 58 to create compound ribs which cooperate to secure the flaps 50 in place on the drywall surfaces. Also, joint compound ~~and~~ will be worked into the undulations formed by the ridges 59 on the opposite sides of such flaps, which define the grooves 57 of the inwardly-facing surfaces 54. This will create additional compound ribs to thus cooperate in mechanically trapping such flaps in the joint compound to also anchor them solidly in place.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 17, line 1 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

In an exemplary embodiment, the ~~grooves 56, ridges 58,~~ grooves, 56 and 57, ridges, 58 and 59, and perforations 60 on each flap 50 of the drywall joint assembly strip device 10 of the present invention are formed in a single operation. As shown in FIG. 6, one such means for forming all three features in one step is a mating roller device, or knurling machine 70. The machine generally has two parallel shafts aligned in a vertical plane: an upper shaft 72 and a lower shaft 74. An upper roller 76 and a lower roller 78 are mounted in rolling contact on the distal ends of the upper and lower shafts, respectively. The upper roller is configured with one or more axially spaced apart circumferential rings 80 having radially spaced apart pyramidal spikes, or knurling points 82, thereabout. The lower roller is configured with axially spaced apart circumferential channels 84 positioned to accommodate the spiked rings of the upper roller.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 17, line 11 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

The upper and lower shafts 72 and 74 rotate in opposite directions relative to one another, so that the upper roller 76 and lower roller 78 turn on each other and allow the flaps 50 to be fed between them one at a time. The shafts may be manually rotated or be driven by the knurling machine. In either case, a dry paper flap may be fed between the mating, rotating rollers to pass between them such that its outwardly facing surface 52 faces the upper roller so that each ring 80 on the upper roller forces the flap material into

the corresponding channel 84 on the lower roller to permanently deform the paper and form the respective grooves 56. At the same time, in those embodiments which are perforated, knurling teeth define points 82 to make multiple punctures in the respective flap along each groove to form the spaced apart perforations 60. The flap material is forced by the rings 80 in the upper roller 76 into the engaging channels 84 of the lower roller 78 with sufficient force to permanently deform the paper forming such flaps to define on ~~one side~~ the outwardly-facing surface 52 thereof high areas, defining the ridges 58, projecting on either side of each groove 56. As depicted in Fig. 3, it will also be appreciated by those of skill in the art that, as the rings 80 force the flaps 50 into the channels 84, their inwardly-facing surfaces 54 will be similarly formed with alternating grooves 57 and ridges 59. In this way, through a single operation, a knurled surface comprised of lengthwise grooves, ridges, and perforations ~~is~~ may be permanently formed along the outwardly facing surface 52 and/or inwardly-facing surface 54 of each flap, thus completing the strip device 10. Therefore, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the drywall joint assembly strip device of the present invention is capable of being produced in a convenient and cost effective manner by being made of relatively common and inexpensive materials and by employing methods that are efficient and utilize equipment that is generally known in the art.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A drywall trim device for protecting a drywall corner joint, comprising:

a relatively rigid elongated core having a curved ~~lengthwise~~ transverse cross-section so as to have a convex outer surface and a concave inner surface and including a pair of flanges terminating in respective longitudinal edges;

a paper cover bonded to ~~said~~ the outer surface and extending beyond ~~said~~ the longitudinal edges of ~~said~~ the core to form flexible flaps having respective outward and inward surfaces; and

~~said~~ the flaps being formed with a plurality of elongated grooves and ridges with at least the inward surfaces including the ridges, for anchoring into joint compound on the drywall corner joint, and at least the outward surfaces including the grooves; and

the flaps being further formed with spaced-apart perforations in ~~said~~ the grooves of the outward surfaces.

16. (Currently Amended) A drywall corner protection strip device for protecting a drywall corner joint, comprising:

an elongated metal core having first and second longitudinal edges;

a paper cover bonded to ~~said~~ the metal core and extending beyond ~~said~~ the first and second longitudinal edges to form flexible paper flaps, each having an outwardly-facing surface and an inwardly-facing surface;

~~said~~ the flaps being formed on both their outwardly-facing and inwardly-facing surfaces with alternating elongated grooves and ridges ~~in alternating relationship~~ to provide linear stiffness in ~~said~~ the flaps; and

~~said~~ the paper flaps being further formed on their outwardly-facing surfaces with spaced-apart perforations formed along ~~said~~ the grooves and extending through the flaps to their inwardly-facing surfaces to provide for the communication of uncured joint compound between ~~said~~ the outwardly-facing surfaces and ~~said~~ the inwardly-facing surfaces during the installation of ~~said~~ the drywall corner protection strip device onto ~~said~~ the drywall corner joint.

Claims 17-29 (Canceled)

30. (Original) A protective drywall joint strip device comprising:

an elongated rigid core of a predetermined width and terminating in opposite longitudinal edges;

a paper cover bonded to said core and configured to project laterally beyond the respective said edges to form respective flexible flaps;

said flaps being formed on at least one side with at least four parallel elongated grooves defining therebetween respective reinforcing ribs, said grooves being spaced 1/8th of an inch apart and said ribs being raised outwardly from the bottoms of the respective said grooves at least 1/64th of an inch; and

said flaps being further formed with respective perforations spaced equidistant along the respective said grooves and projecting extending through said flaps to form open flow apertures at least 1/64th of an inch in transverse cross section for flow therethrough of joint compound.

Claims 31-34 (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ drywall corner protection strip of claim 33 16 wherein:

the paper cover is constructed of fibers and strengthening compound mixed together at the time of manufacture.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ drywall corner protection strip of claim 35 wherein:

the strengthening compound encapsulates the fibers.

37. (Withdrawn) A protective drywall strip joint device comprising:
a pair of drywall panels having abutting edges forming a drywall seam;
a relatively rigid core strip overlying the seam and marginal edges of said panels;
a relatively flexible cover strip overlying the core and bonded thereto, such cover projecting beyond the opposite sides of the cover strip to form respective flaps formed with inner and outer sides, the inner sides being formed with longitudinal flap grooves and ridges; and

joint compound interposed between said inner sides and marginal edges, filling the grooves to form compound ridges therein to provide mechanical barriers against flattening out of the flap grooves and ridges and to further resist displacement of the core relative to the drywall panels.

38. (Withdrawn) The strip device as set forth in claim 37 wherein:
the flaps are formed with a plurality of through perforations disposed along the length thereof and filled with said joint compound to cooperate with the compound ridges to mechanically resist displacement of the core.

39. (Withdrawn) The strip device as set forth in claim 38 wherein:
the flaps are formed with said perforations disposed in longitudinal rows and are further formed on their respective outer sides with grooves aligned with the respective rows of perforations to cooperate in, during application of said compound, funnel the compound to the respective perforations.

40. (Withdrawn) The protective drywall fitting set forth in claim 38 wherein:
the ribs and grooves are continuous throughout the length of said flaps.

41. (Currently Amended) A tape-on drywall fitting device comprising:
an elongated core having at least one elongated edge;
a paper cover for covering the core and projecting laterally beyond ~~such~~ the one
edge to form an elongated paper flap having an outwardly-facing surface and an
inwardly-facing surface; and
the flap being formed on ~~its underside~~ at least the inwardly-facing surface with a
plurality of spaced apart ridges.

42. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 41 wherein:
the ridges are of uniform height.

43. (Previously Presented) The drywall fitting of claim 41 wherein:
the ridges are spaced equidistant apart.

44. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41 wherein:
the ~~ribs~~ ridges are continuous in the longitudinal direction of the flap.

45. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41 wherein:
the flap is formed with the ~~ribs~~ ridges extending the full length thereof and is

formed on its ~~outside~~ outwardly-facing surface with a plurality of grooves aligned with the ~~ribs~~ ridges, and

the respective bottoms of the grooves are ~~is further~~ formed with through openings ~~in the respective bottoms of the grooves~~ so that compound applied to the grooves will be directed ~~thereby~~ to the openings.

46. (Currently Amended) A method of a making a drywall joint protection strip device for covering a joint formed between abutting drywall panels including:

selecting an elongated core having an elongated outer surface;

selecting a paper cover ~~with~~ having a width that is greater than the width of the outer surface ~~to project laterally to at least one edge of the core to form a paper flap;~~

bonding the cover to the core so that it extends beyond a longitudinal edge of the outer surface to form a flexible flap having an inwardly-facing surface and an outwardly-facing surface; and

forming alternating grooves and ridges on ~~the under~~ the inwardly-facing surface ~~thereof of the flap~~ to confront ~~the surfaces~~ a surface along the marginal edge of a one of the drywall ~~panel~~ panels to be embedded in joint compound disposed between the flap and the marginal edge surface ~~of a drywall panel on which the device is mounted.~~

47. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of claim.46 that includes:

making the paper cover from fiber elements mixed with a strengthening compound at the time of manufacture.

48. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of claim 46 that includes:

forming the outwardly-facing surface of the flaps with elongated grooves ~~in the exterior surface thereof~~ and forming through perforations in such grooves for receipt of joint compound.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of making a drywall joint that includes:

selecting a pair of drywall panels and butting them together along a seam to form a joint;

selecting a drywall trim finishing device including a relatively rigid core for covering such seam and a flexible fibrous covering strip covering the exterior of such core and including at least one flap projecting from the edge thereof and forming such flap with a plurality of longitudinal grooves and ridges on the interior thereof; and

applying joint compound to the flap to be interposed between such flap and marginal surface of such drywall panel to embed such grooves and ribs therein to anchor such core to said one drywall panel.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49 wherein:

the step of selecting the trim device includes selecting it with grooves on the exterior of such flap and perforations in such grooves projecting through such flap; and

the step of applying such compound includes, while such compound is flowable, flowing it into such exterior grooves and through such perforations.

51. (Withdrawn) A protective drywall fitting for covering the joint formed between a pair of drywall panels formed with marginal surfaces covered on the opposite sides by drywall cover paper and abutted together to form a joint seam and comprising:

an elongated, relatively rigid core for positioning in covering relationship over the joint seam and including at least one longitudinal edge;

a relatively flexible paper cover bonded to the core and configured to, when the core is positioned over the joint seam to project beyond the edge thereof to form a flexible longitudinal projecting flap to cover the cover paper on marginal surface of one of the panels; and

the flap including elongated groove and ridges formed on the interior surface confronting the marginal surface of one of the panels for receipt of joint compound to, when such joint compound is cured, cooperate in anchoring such fitting to such drywall panels.

52. (New) A drywall corner protection strip device for protecting a drywall corner joint formed by the abutting edges of a pair of drywall panels, comprising:

a relatively rigid core for overlying the abutting edges and the marginal edges of the panels adjacent to the abutting edges;

a relatively flexible cover strip for overlying the core and bonded thereto, the cover projecting beyond the opposite sides of the core to form respective flexible flaps formed with inner and outer sides; and

the inner sides of the flaps being formed with a plurality of alternating longitudinal flap grooves and ridges to be embedded in joint compound interposed between the inner sides and a respective corresponding portion of the exterior surfaces of the drywall panels to fill the grooves and anchor the respective flaps in the compound.

53. (New) The drywall corner protection strip device as set forth in claim 52 wherein:

the flaps are further formed with a plurality of through perforations disposed along the length thereof and filled with the joint compound to form compound posts which cooperate with the compound ridges to mechanically resist displacement of the core.

54. (New) The drywall corner protection strip device as set forth in claim 53 wherein:

the flaps are formed with the perforations disposed in longitudinal rows and are further formed on their respective outer sides with grooves aligned with the respective rows of perforations to cooperate in, during application of the joint compound, funneling the compound to the respective perforations.

55. (New) The drywall corner protection strip device set forth in claim 52 wherein:

the ridges and grooves are continuous throughout the length of the flaps.